

Seattle Schools Certify as Washington Green Schools

Congratulations to Bertschi, Garfield High, Holy Rosary, John Stanford International, Lawton Elementary, and Montlake Elementary for achieving Level 1 certification in the new Washington Green Schools program. Congratulations to Maple Elementary for achieving Levels 1 and 2 – one of only two schools in the state to reach Level 2! This year, 105 schools across the state are recycling, composting, reducing waste, and protecting water and air to achieve points to certify. Go to www.wagreenschools.org for information.

Four out of Five...

...Seattle households compost their food scraps at the curb on any given week! City of Seattle studies also show that residents helped turn more than 89,000 tons of organics into earth-friendly compost through food waste collection, backyard composting and grasscycling in 2009. More than 26,000 tons of food waste was collected at the curb and returned back to local gardens as compost, instead of going to the landfill.



Halloween pumpkins, Thanksgiving turkey, Christmas ham and holiday fruitcake leftovers, along with all other food scraps, can now go in your food and yard waste cart. Even Halloween candy (no wrappers) can be composted. All food can go in your food and yard waste cart, which is collected every week for your convenience.

If you want to wait to put your food scraps in your cart until collection day, store them in a paper bag, compostable bag, wrapped up newspaper, lidded container or even the refrigerator to prevent odors.

For more tips on how to make food scrap collection easy for you and your family, visit www.seattle.gov/util.



Kitchen Compost Coupon

Receive a FREE bonus roll of compostable kitchen bags with every purchase of a home compost kit from Cedar Grove! A \$3.50 value. Home compost kits cost \$19.95 + shipping.

Use promotion code: SPU1031 at www.cgcompost.com or call 877-994-4466

Must be redeemed by 10/31/10.



Thank You

...for properly maintaining your car. You're helping to keep oil and other automotive fluids from finding their way to Puget Sound and other waterways, which hurts salmon and other wildlife and habitat. To help you continue to stop drips, leaks, and follow healthy maintenance habits like recycling your oil, you'll find discounts like the following at www.seattle.gov/util/cartips.



\$10 OFF Jiffy Lube Signature Service Oil Change

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY. Regular price: \$39.99 plus tax, most vehicles. Service includes: oil (up to five quarts of quality oil), oil filter, lubricate chassis (when applicable), check and fill five vital fluids, check air filter and tire pressure, vacuum interior floors and clean exterior windows. Coupon not valid in combination with any other offer or discount including, but not limited to Early Bird and Manager's Special. Additional charge for high mileage, synthetic blend or full synthetic oil. Offer valid at participating Jiffy Lube® service centers. Coupon expires 12/31/10. Code 70WATER2

For participating service centers near you, please visit us at www.HeartlandJiffyLube.com


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Changing your own oil?
Dispose of it properly by recycling it curbside for free. Set out oil (next to your recycling cart) in tightly sealed 1-gallon containers. Two gallon limit.





CurbWaste & Conserve



Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Fall 2010


Seattle: Recycling More, Landfilling Less

Congratulations! The amount of waste businesses and residents diverted from the landfill into recycling or compost increased to 51.1 percent in 2009. This marks the sixth straight year of increased recycling, and maintains Seattle's stature as a national recycling leader. The city's goal is to divert 60 percent of its waste to recycling and composting by 2012.

Overall, the city disposed of 351,689 tons of waste into the landfill in 2009, which is 125,000 tons less than what Seattle threw in the landfill back in 2000.

City of Seattle garbage studies reveal that half of what we throw in the landfill is recyclable. It's not garbage anymore! Food, napkins and greasy pizza boxes belong in the food and yard waste cart. Newspaper, envelopes, milk cartons, cups, jars and cartons belong in recycling. Not sure what goes where? Visit www.seattle.gov/util and use the "How do I get rid of this?" tool to find where you can properly dispose of common household items.





Sorting Out Take Out

It's not garbage anymore! Thanks to a new law, all single-use food service ware and packaging in Seattle restaurants, coffee shops and grocery stores must either be compostable or recyclable. Look for signs near compost, recycling and trash bins that indicate how to properly dispose of your coffee cup, napkin, or take out container, or just ask the staff behind the counter.

You are helping prevent 6,000 tons of leftover food and food packaging from being landfilled every year, and that's why it's important to STOP, THINK and SORT what's on your tray into the right bins. Thank you, Seattle!

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Seattle Public Utilities

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통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.
Wixii! tunjubaan affka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka: 206-684-3000.
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\$100,000 Neighborhood Recycling Rewards

Seattle Public Utilities, CleanScapes and Waste Management are offering \$100,000 in prizes to help businesses and residents reduce waste and recycle more in their neighborhoods. Visit www.seattle.gov/util/recyclingrewards to learn how you can earn some green by making your neighborhood greener!

The Where Does It Go? Recycling Game

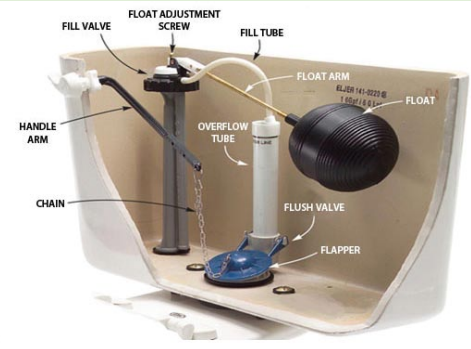
Seattle Public Utilities has a fun and interactive game to teach both kids and adults how to properly use our recycling, food and yard waste, and garbage containers. The game is free, online, and educational. With this new game, pretty soon your kids will be teaching you! Visit www.seattle.gov/util and search “Recycling Game” to play today!



Don’t Let a Little Leak Turn into a Big Bill

Finding and fixing leaks is an easy way to save money on utility bills. Leaky toilets, faucets, and outdoor watering systems can add up to hundreds of dollars and waste thousands of gallons of water each year.

Of all the leaks in the home, toilet leaks are the most frequent, and often the costliest. Unlike faucet leaks, toilet leaks can go undetected since they can be silent. Fortunately most toilet leaks are relatively easy to fix.



- Here’s how to check and fix a leaky toilet:
1. Remove the toilet tank lid.
 2. Put several drops of food coloring in the tank. Don't flush the toilet.
 3. After 10 minutes, look in the bowl. If you see color in the bowl, you have a leak, probably from a worn flapper.

To remove your flapper, disconnect the chain from the flush arm, unclip the flapper from the overfill valve, and remove. Purchasing the wrong flapper might compromise your toilet’s flushing performance. There are many different flappers on the market, so make sure you bring your old flapper with you to the store.

If your toilet was made before 1994, consider replacing it with a high-efficiency WaterSense-labeled toilet. Upgrading to a WaterSense-labeled toilet not only makes good economic sense, you can also be assured of superior performance.

For a limited time, Seattle Public Utilities customers who replace their old toilets with new WaterSense-labeled models are eligible for a \$30 rebate. To learn more about the \$30 rebate or how to find leaks, visit www.savingwater.org or call **206-684-SAVE (7283)**.

Fall Tips for a Glorious Garden in 2011!

Don’t put away those garden tools yet! By following a few fall tips, you can have a beautiful garden next spring that will need less water, fertilizer or pesticides.

Reduce or eliminate watering. If you are still watering your garden, remember that plants need much less water in September as the weather cools down and the days get shorter. You may be able to stop watering, especially if your plants are well established. If you have an automatic sprinkler system, find out how much to water at www.iwms.org.



Mulch. Apply mulch, such as wood chips, compost or leaves, to your garden beds after your fall weeding. This will make it harder for cool-season weeds to germinate. Your garden will be ready for spring, retaining soil moisture longer and delaying the need to begin watering next year.

Use your leaves. Leaves can be left in place on garden beds as a mulch (rake them from the lawn though!). They are also an excellent addition to your compost pile. Diseased leaves, such as those with black spot, should be placed in your yard waste collection container because the heat in commercial compost processing kills disease organisms.

Lawn care. If you have a lawn, a fall application of an organic or slow-release fertilizer will help your lawn develop healthier roots over the fall and be ready to spring back after the winter.

For more information and to sign up for the free Savvy Gardener e-newsletter, visit www.savingwater.org, and click on "Conserve Outside."

Help Prevent Flooding

You can help prevent flooding and improve water quality in your neighborhood and beyond by participating in Fall Clean 2010. Volunteers adopt their local storm drains and help keep them free of leaves and other debris.

Seattle Public Utilities faces a big job every autumn, trying to keep storm drains from clogging with leaves and flooding streets with rainwater. As a way to involve citizens, the utility is promoting Fall Clean - a one-month event in November that supports volunteers with free gloves, bags, brooms, rakes, and safety vests, as well as help with leaf disposal.

Please don't wait until the streets are flooding to take action. Your efforts divert pollutants from streams, creeks and other natural waterways. For more information on Fall Clean, call **(206) 233-7187** or visit www.seattle.gov/util/adoptadrain.



Dear Evelyn: How can I get food waste collection at my apartment?

Hundreds of Seattle apartments and condos are successfully participating in food waste collection. Service and cost options are available to match your budget, plus there is a \$100 incentive for signing up as a Friend of Recycling and Composting (FORC) steward. FORCs promote participation and help ensure the right stuff goes into the cart through education. Call **(206) 684-7665** to sign up for food waste collection, or **(206) 684-8717** to request a FORC informational packet.

Dear Evelyn: Now that Seattle can recycle and compost so many things, what’s left to throw in the garbage?

Unfortunately, despite our advanced recycling technology, there are lots of things that still go in the garbage. Pet waste, diapers, fats, oils, grease, broken glass, empty potato chip and cereal bags, Styrofoam, alkaline batteries and food-soiled coated paper all belong in the garbage can. To find out where to properly dispose of items, visit www.seattle.gov/util and use the "How do I get rid of this?" tool.

Dear Evelyn: What do I do with old paint and old paint cans?

Latex and oil paint require different handling. Try donating paint to a non-profit or theater group, or list on Craigslist or Freecycle. Using it up is best.

1. Latex paint: if just a small amount is left, remove the lid and let the can dry. Then put the can and lid in the garbage, separately. If there is a lot of paint, mix 50/50 with kitty litter or a commercial paint hardener. Allow to dry and put in the garbage. Keep the lid off so the driver can see that there is no liquid paint. Liquids are not accepted in the garbage.
2. Oil paint requires special handling. Do not dry it out as the vapors are flammable and harmful to your health. For empty cans, remove the lid and let the fumes evaporate, then put the can and lid in the garbage (separately). You can also take oil paint to a hazardous waste facility. For the closest location, go to www.seattle.gov/util or call **(206) 684-3000**.

Dear Evelyn: Do I need to rinse my food containers before I recycle them?

Yes. When it comes to recycling, keep it clean! When you put food-soiled recyclable containers or garbage in your recycling cart, it contaminates clean recyclables, and it all ends up in the landfill. A quick scrape or rinse of your jars, cartons and other containers should do the trick to remove the gunk and goo.

Thanks for your interest in recycling!
For more information on what can be recycled, visit www.seattle.gov/util/lookitup or write Ask Evelyn, PO BOX 34018 Seattle, WA 98124-4018.

This information can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance.
Call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 684-3000. TDD telephone number is (206) 233-7241.
Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.